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REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 10, and 11 have been canceled to overcome the rejection under 35 USC § 102(e).

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to include the limitations of Claims 2-3 and 10-11 respectively to overcome the rejection under 35 USC § 102(e).

Claims 4, 5, 8, 12, 13 and 16 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the examiner's notice of allowable subject matter; however, Applicant submits that the reasons given are not limited to those presented, and that the record speaks for itself.

Claims 4-8 and 12-16 have been amended to overcome the objections and to correct informalities, however, none of the amendments to Claims 4-8 and 12-16 has been made to overcome a rejection based on a statutory requirement. Support for the amendment to Claims 4-8 and 12-16 may be found beginning on page 8, line 17 of the specification.

New Claims 17 and 18 have been added. Support for Claims 17 and 18 may be found beginning on page 7, line 9 of the specification.

Claims 1, 4-9, and 12-18 remain pending in the application.

Response to the rejection under 35 USC § 102(e) of Claims 6-7 and 14-15

Claims 6 and 7 include all the limitations of Claims 4 and 5. Claims 4 and 5 were deemed allowable except for the objection of being dependent on a rejected claim. Because Applicant has amended Claims 4 and 5 to include all the

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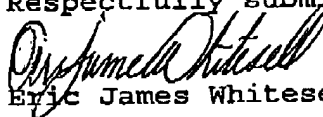
limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims to place Claims 4 and 5 in condition for allowance, and because Claims 6 and 7 include all the limitations of Claims 4 and 5, Applicant submits that Claims 6 and 7 are likewise in condition for allowance.

Claims 14 and 15 include all the limitations of Claims 12 and 13. Claims 12 and 13 were deemed allowable except for the objection of being dependent on a rejected claim. Because Applicant has amended Claims 12 and 13 to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims to place Claims 12 and 13 in condition for allowance, and because Claims 14 and 15 include all the limitations of Claims 12 and 13, Applicant submits that Claims 14 and 15 are likewise in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully requests examination and reconsideration of Claims 1, 4-9, and 12-18.

The fee for one additional independent claim is attached to this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,


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